

Corrections Offender Housing

Mission

To protect public safety and promote offender rehabilitation through the maintenance of safe, secure correctional facilities.

Summary of Activities

The **Department of Correction (DOC)** on July 1, 2003 housed 20,850 adult male felons. Of these offenders, 18,870 are housed in one of 24 prison facilities located around the state. Another 650 are housed on a contractual basis in out-of-state private sector prison beds, while 1,330 are in county jails. Counties are reimbursed for the cost of housing state prisoners in county jails at a rate of \$35 per day. The adult female population is 1,639, of which 87 are in county jails.

39% of adult offenders are incarcerated for crimes against other persons. 21% have been convicted of property crimes, with another 20% incarcerated for substance abuse violations. 19% of offenders are classified as maximum-security offenders, 71% as medium security, and 10% as minimum-security offenders.

The above referenced offenders have the following sentence lengths: 4% with lengths of 1-2 years, 20% at 2-5 years, 24% at 5-10 years, 11% at 10-15 years, 11% at 15-20 years, and 26% at 20 years and over. There are currently 38 offenders assigned to Indiana Death Row and 66 offenders with a sentence of Life without Parole. There are also 33 offenders under the age of 18 housed in adult facilities. The average age of an adult offender is 35 years.



The DOC Central Office provides a number of coordinating services for Indiana's correctional system. It is responsible for assigning offenders to the most appropriate facility and program, as well as maintaining offender records and scheduling offender release. Offenders are placed in the least restrictive appropriate security levels for the protection of the public and offenders. Using modern equipment, technology, and techniques, DOC staff are prepared for handling disturbances, high-risk offenders, and the care of staff in high-stress situations. Through the efficient transfer and movement of offenders, the DOC ensures that housing facility resources are maximized.

External Factors

The number of adult offenders housed by the DOC has increased from 14,221 in 1993 to 22,576 on July 1, 2003, an increase of 59%. As these trends continue, greater expenditures are required to build new prisons and provide custody staff and other prison personnel. The most recent long-term population forecast indicates by July 1, 2010, population levels will be 27,775 adult males, and 2,235 adult females.

The General Assembly provided no additional money for the opening of new beds at the recently completed New Castle and Miami Phase 2 facilities. This financial constraint will challenge the DOC to provide efficient housing for the projected population increase of over 2,000 offenders through June 30, 2005.

Evaluation and Accomplishments

Despite the ever-increasing offender population, the DOC has been able to achieve great success in maintaining the safety of the public, staff, and offenders. It has maintained a low number of escapes and a low number of major disturbances. The DOC is working to establish performance measurements regarding the safety of offenders and staff.

The DOC has a well established Youth Incarcerated as Adult (YIA) program that serves male offenders under age 18 and extends to youthful offenders through age 21 as needed. This program is housed at the Wabash Valley Correctional Facility for all male offenders except those classified as minimum security who go to Medaryville for a YIA program.

Currently the DOC is receiving technical assistance to examine the adult classification system. The current classification system has not been revisited since the early 1990s.

The DOC is also in the process of creating a case management system for adult offenders. While this is in the early planning stages, it is the hope of the department to be able to provide a continuum of services for the offenders from intake through release to parole or probation. The department is working to match the offender needs with applicable programs, and thus produce more productive citizens upon their release back to the communities.

Plans for the Biennium

1. Implement a new pay scale for adult offenders.
2. Continue to employ private sector companies to supplement DOC bed count.
3. Classify offenders to the proper security levels in order to maximize public safety.
4. Continue to train and prepare emergency response teams.

Special Initiatives

Miami Correctional Facility Phase II - completed. The completion of the Miami Correctional Facility, when fully operational, will add 1,632 beds to the DOC for the incarceration of adult males. The total cost of operations, including Phase I, was approximately \$53 million. Currently four housing units are in use, 800 males. Three of those are funded with Phase I monies and the other unit is funded strictly with overtime monies. These 800 offenders have limited programming and services.

New Castle Correctional Facility - completed. The DOC built a Special Needs Facility to house 1,868 offenders. Programming, when fully operational, will include therapeutic substance abuse communities, elements of the Department's Sex Offender Management and Monitoring Program, assisted living, infirmary, and mental health populations. Currently the mental health unit, assisted living unit, and one general population unit is housed.

